

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 00706 301808Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W

-----090755 301816Z /43

O 301615Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9764

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 0706

BRUSSELS AND PARIS FOR LABATTS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TS ELAB

SUBJ: TUNISIAN VISIT OF AFL-CIO REP

REF: TUNIS 0681

1. AFL-CIO REP URVING BROWN WAS IN TUNIS FROM NOON JANUARY 29 UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 30. HE SPENT OVER SIX HOURS IN TALKS WITH MEE AND OTHER EMBOFFS, ABOUT VISIT TO FAMILY HOME OF UGTT LEADER HABIB ACHOUR WHERE HE OET MEMBERS OF FAMILY AND SOME KEY UGTT WORKERS.

2. BROWN REPORTED THAT NOUIRA SPOKE CONVINCIGLY OF LIBYAN CONNECTION BEHAIND RECENT "DEVIATIONIST" CONDUCT OF UGTT LEADERSHIP. PRIMIN WAS RESIGNED TO LETTING JUDICIAL PROCEDURES TAKE THEIR COURSE AND ASSURED BROWN THAT ACHOUR AND HIS COLLEAGES, AS WELL AS ALL OTHERS UNDER ARREST FOR JAN.

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 00706 301808Z

26 RIOTS, WOULD RECEIVE FAIR AND OPEN TRIALS. HE DECLINED TO INTERVENE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR BROWN TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH ACHOUR. NOUIRA ALSO EXPRESSED TO BROWN HIS HOPE THAT SENTENCES GIVEN BY THE COURT WILL BE LIGHT ENOUGH TO WARRANT THEIR BEING SUSPENDED SO THAT THE CURRENT UNPLEASANTNESS CAN BEQUICKLY BURIED.

3. BROWN SAID HE CAME AWAY FROM THIS TALK WITH IMPRESSION, SWMILAR TO OUR OWN, THAT GOT HAS NO DESIRE TO DESTROY THE UGTT BUT REPLACE ERRANT MEMBERS OF CURRENT EXECUTIVE WITH SOME RELIABLE DESTOURIANS. AFL-CIO AND OTHER WESTERN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WILL CAREFULLY WATCH THIS PROCEDURE.

4. BOWN TOLD NOUIRA THAT HE MUST EXPECT AFL-CIO TO ISSUE SOME FORM OF PUBLIC STATEMENT FOLLOWING DETENTION OF UGTT LEADERSHIP JANUARY 28. TO US BROWN SAID THAT, IN FACE OF THE EVIDENCE AND ACHOUR'S RECENT HISTORY OF ERRATIC BEHAVIOR, HE PLANNED TO RECOMMEND TO AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY SO STARE-MENT OF UNDYING SUPPORT FOR ACHOUR AT THIS TIME. HE BELIEVED AFL-CIO SHOULD LIMIT ITSEOF TO DEMANDING AN EARLY, FAIR AND OPEN TRIAL FOR UGTT MEMBERS NOW UNDER DETENTION.
MULCAHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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